Increase in the telephone bills of Ministers

906. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN:

"Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to' state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a continuous increase in the telehone bills of the Ministers of the Central Government on their listed] and unlisted telephones, during each of the last three years;

(b) * if so, what arc the details viz. number of calls and amount of telephone bills of each Minister for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 a*nd* upto June, 94;

(c) whether these bill.- were paid within the prescribed period if not, what the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the names of ex-Min-ster who were Ministers during the above psriod but after relinquishing their offices hay. not paid their bills so far: and

(e) what are the details of the calls and amount of the telephone bills outstanding againsi each oC them during the Period mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OP COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM)-; (a) to (el Such in formation is not kept by the Telecom. Department. The detailed particulars are maintained bv the respective Ministries.

Production achievements by telecommunication factories

907. SHRI V. RAJESWAR RAO:
SHRI SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production■′. terms of value achieved by the six telecommunication factories during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(b) what was the target of production set for these uspective years;

(c) whether any cost benefit analy- sis has been made about these factories in view of the policy of liberalisation;

(d) whether the private sector is being allowed to produoe the items wh ich are being produced in these factories and to what extent; and

(e) what are the production cost brrvc-fi!; in these factories vis-a-vis private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Total production achieved in Tele- Factories during 1992-93 was 135.21 Crores and during 1993-94 was Rs. 117.72 Crores.

(b) The production target for 1992-94 was Rs. 150 Crores and that for 1993-94 was Rs. 165 Crores.

(c) The main products of Telecom. [Factories viz. CT Boxes, Microwave Towers Tubes, Main Distribution ! Fram?-;'(MDF), DP Boxes, Local Pay Phones etc. etc cost competitive with | private suppliers. The production of iteirw which have become obsolete due to technological advancement have been discontinued and new pro ducts viz.. Tubular Towers/Maste, MDFs for medium and large Exchan ges. Line Jack Units, Antennas, Con nectors etc. have been included in the production programme for 1994-95 with a view to utilise the existing infrastructure and resources. Chief General Managers have been authori sed to take up any DOTjnon DOT product for manufacture and market them at competitive cost and quality. It is considered that Telecom Factor ies can be run as viable units even in the environment liberalised policy.

(d) There is no bar on any private manufacturer to produce the items from the product range of Telecom. Factories. Generally the requirement -in excess of the production capacity of Telecom. Factories: is procured from outside sources.

(e) The major products of Telecom Factories compete favourably with throse of private suppliers in respect of cost as well as quality.

Changes in the Telecom policy

908. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS foe pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring azout amendments in the National Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, whether the telecom offences, are increasing rapidly without any proper check; and

(c) if so, to what extent the chan ges in the telecom policy are going to check telecom offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been rapid increase in the complaints of diversion of telephones by unscruplous persons in connviance with the telecom officials for illegal STD/ISD purposes. As a preventive measure surprise inspections by Vigilance Staff of the Department have been streng. thened at sensitive points in the network. 4 special Cell of CBI will be set up shortly at the 4 metropolitan cities to coordinate with the Department officials in effectively checking the malpractice. It is proposed to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 to effectively deal with the persons involves in diversion of telephones or those taking advantage of such diversion of those abetting or inducing such diversion. Deterrent penalties are being proposed against such persons. The Bill for this purpose has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 10.8.93. If is expected that the proposed legislation will enable the Department to effectively deal with and contain the malpractice of diversion of telephones for illegal purposes.

Euroissue of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

909. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI O. P. KOHLI;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are dithering on the decision to relaunch the £ 1 billion Euroissuea of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and the loss per day to the VSNL is estimated to be Rs. 1 crore;

(b if so, what is Government's present thinking to go to the international market again at the earliest; and

(c) how far the non-mobilisation of funds is impairing the programmes of the VSNL and also the growth of telecommunication sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE[1] OP THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The report of estimated loss of Rs. 1 crore per day is without any basis.

(b) No final decision has yet been taken regarding relaunch of the deferred VSNL issue.

(c) Deferment has not impaired the programmes of VSNL and the telecommunication sector.

टेलेक्स मशीनों पर देवनागरी का प्रयोग

910. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दूरसंचार विभाग में टेलेक्स मशीनों पर देवनागरी के प्रयोग की सुविधा उपलब्ध है;